(b) An additional wind power capacity of 730 MW has been installed in the country during the period April-September 2006. The Wind power projects are grid connected and feed electricity to the respective State grids.

(c) Grid interactive wind power programme is essentially private sector driven. Adequate manufacturing facilities already exist in the country to cater to the needs of commercial wind power projects being set up in the country. Further, efforts are continuously being made by the Government to promote setting up of wind power projects by providing concessional import duty on certain components of wind electric generator, excise duty exemption, ten years' tax holiday on income generated from wind power projects, benefit of accelerated depreciation, loan from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and other financial institutions. Wind power is being given preferential tariff in potential States. New potential areas are explored through wind resource assessment studies.

Biomass energy for villages and far flung areas of Uttaranchal

2037. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to launch a mission for using biomass energy for village and far flung areas of Uttaranchal in a big way;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no such proposal with the Ministry. However, the Ministry has sanctioned test projects on Village Energy Security in five villages in the State, namely, Kharsari, Toli and Khon Bagi in District Tehri Garhwal, village Sarari in the District Dehradun and village Amni in District Champawat. The objective of these projects is to meet total energy needs of the villages through locally available biomass resources.